

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OES-05

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1972

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 0116

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BR

SUBJ: BRAZIL'S 1974 STEEL PERFORMANCE

REF: (A) CERP 0539

(B) RIO 4689

(C) BRASILIA 0187

1. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY 1974 DATA OBTAINED FROM BRAZIL STEEL INSTITUTE (IBS), INGOT PRODUCTION LAST YEAR BY COUNTRY'S 38 PRODUCERS WAS 7,503,452 MT, A GAIN OF 5.0 PERCENT OVER 1973. BY COMPARISON, GROWTH OF INGOT PRODUCTION HAD AVERAGED 10 PERCENT ANNUALLY FOR PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS AND HAD INCREASED NO LESS THAN 8.5 PERCENT IN ANY ONE OF THOSE YEARS. THE TARGET FOR 1974 HAD BEEN 8.5 MILLION MT. NO DETAILS YET AVAILABLE ON BREAKDOWN BY COMPANY, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT TO HAVE THEM SOON.

2. PRODUCTION OF ROLLED STEEL PRODUCTS IN 1974 WAS 6,086,215 MT, A 1.6 PERCENT INCREASE OVER PRIOR YEAR. FURTHER BREAKDOWN REVEALS THAT OUTPUT ON NON-FLAT PRODUCTS (ESSENTIALLY FROM PRIVATELY-OWNED MILLS) WAS 3,456,354 MT, A 9.7 PERCENT GAIN OVER 1973. HOWEVER, OUTPUT OF FLAT PRODUCTS (ESSENTIALLY FROM GOB-OWNED MILLS CSN, COSIPA AND USIMINAS) DECREASED IN 1974 BY 7.3 PERCENT, TO 2,629,861 MT.

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3. PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON IN 1974 WAS 5,847,656 MT, UP 5.7 PERCENT OVER PRIOR YEAR.

4. SPONGE IRON PRODUCTION, FROM TWO NEW MILLS WHICH EMPLOY DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS, WAS 142,760 MT IN 1974.

5. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ARE THAT BRAZIL'S STEEL CONSUMPTION IN 1974 WAS 12.2 MILLION MT AND THAT IMPORTS SOARED TO 4.7 MILLION MT (AT A COST EXCEEDING \$1.5 BILLION). IF THESE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, CONSUMPTION LAST YEAR INCREASED BY 30 PERCENT AND IMPORTS ROSE BY 80 PERCENT OVER 1973 LEVELS.
MILLER

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